

**Leadership Council Resolution 2011-18  
Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for Pacific herring**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, the viability of Pacific herring provides a key indication of “healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, Pacific herring spawning biomass as measured by the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts from the Department of Fish and Wildlife have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for Pacific herring; and

**WHEREAS**, the Science Panel provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership’s guiding principles for target setting

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Herring to satisfy predators' consumption requirements, meet bait and other fishery needs, and assure sufficient herring for successful spawning and recruitment.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership's 2020 recovery target for Pacific herring shall be expressed as:

By 2020, achieve increased spawning biomass for each genetic grouping to a minimum of:

- a. 5,000 tons for Cherry Point stock
- b. 880 tons for Squaxin Pass stock
- c. 13,500 tons for all other stocks combined

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators of all aspects of Pacific herring population viability (including acoustic-trawl survey), food web support, and provisioning for fisheries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership encourages partners to develop thresholds for herring biomass based on needs for herring viability, fishery needs, and/or ecosystem needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures.

Resolution Moved By: David Dicks

Resolution Seconded By: Diana Gale

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:** June 17, 2011